

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 2 is cancelled and claims 1, 25, 27, 28, 39 and 41 are amended and claims 42 to 65 are added as set forth hereinafter.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A holding device for attaching a drape for a surgical microscope in the region of the main objective thereof, said main objective defining an optical axis and having an outer peripheral surface and said holding device comprising:

5 a holding unit having an annular side wall defining a recess for said objective; and,

 said holding unit having a plurality of individual
tongue-shaped ~~section~~ sections having respective tips and
projecting from said side wall for applying a spring force onto
10 said outer peripheral surface of said main objective when said
holding unit is mounted on said main objective in order to
force-tightly hold said holding unit on said main objective; and,
 said individual tongue-shaped sections projecting from said
side wall into said recess inclined at an angle with respect to
15 said optical axis in a direction away from said surgical
microscope so as to permit said tips to contact engage said outer
peripheral surface of said main objective to apply said spring
force thereto.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) A holding device for attaching a drape
for a surgical microscope in the region of the main objective
5 thereof, said main objective having an outer peripheral surface
and said holding device comprising:

a holding unit defining a recess for said objective;

said holding unit having a tongue-shaped section for
applying a spring force onto said outer peripheral surface of
10 said main objective when said holding unit is mounted on said
main objective in order to force-tightly hold said holding unit
on said main objective;

said holding unit having a plurality of said tongue-shaped
sections; and,

15 said tongue-shaped sections having different lengths.

4. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 3,
wherein said holding unit has an annular section defining an
annular recess and said annular recess defines an axis; and, said
tongue-shaped sections extend in an inclined direction to said
5 axis.

5. (Original) The holding device of claim 4, wherein said
tongue-shaped sections are directed toward the inner side of said
annular section.

6. (Original) The holding device of claim 5, wherein the

direction of said tongue-shaped sections to said axis is different.

7. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 1, said holding unit including a stop element for impacting against an end face region of said main objective.

8. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 1, further comprising a cover element; and, said holding unit including means for holding said cover element.

9. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 8, wherein said holding means includes a guide for said cover element.

10. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 9, wherein said holding means includes clamping means.

11. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 10, wherein said holding means includes latching means.

12. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 11, wherein said guide includes a stop section for said cover element.

13. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 1, wherein said holding unit is made of plastic.

14. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 8, wherein said cover element is matched to said holding unit so as to permit

said cover element to be accommodated in said holding unit in two orientations rotated by 180° to each other.

15. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 1, further comprising:

a cover element having a window section for passing a viewing beam path and/or an illuminating beam path of said surgical microscope;

the cover element including:

a holding section for holding said cover element in said holding unit; and,

linear guide means in said holding section for facilitating a lateral introduction of said cover element into said holding unit.

16. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 15, wherein said holding section includes, at least partially, a thickened edge.

17. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 16, further comprising at least one notch formed in said thickened edge.

18. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 15, further comprising a handle formed on said cover element.

19. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 18, wherein said holding section defines a region lying opposite said handle and said region of said holding section has a boundary edge having a convex contour.

20. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 19, wherein said boundary edge has at least one rounded edge region.

21. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 15, further comprising a window base for carrying said window section.

22. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 21, wherein said window base is configured to have a conical cross section.

23. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 22, wherein said window section is inclined to said holding section.

24. (Withdrawn) The holding device of claim 15, which cover element is made of PMMA.

25. (Currently Amended) A drape system for a surgical microscope having a main objective and said main objective defining an optical axis and having an outer peripheral surface, the drape system comprising:

- 5 a drape;
- a holding device for attaching said drape in the region of said main objective;
- said holding device including a holding unit having an annular side wall defining a recess for said main objective; ~~and,~~
- 10 said holding unit having a plurality of individual tongue-shaped section sections having respective tips and projecting from said side wall for applying a spring force onto said outer peripheral surface of said main objective when said

holding unit is mounted on said main objective in order to
15 force-tightly hold said holding unit on said main objective
objective; and,

said individual tongue-shaped sections projecting from said
side wall into said recess inclined at an angle with respect to
said optical axis in a direction away from said surgical
20 microscope so as to permit said tips to contact engage said outer
peripheral surface of said main objective to apply said spring
force thereto.

26. (Original) The drape system of claim 25, wherein said
holding unit has a plurality of said tongue-shaped sections.

27. (Currently Amended) A drape system for a surgical microscope
having a main objective and said main objective having an outer
peripheral surface, the drape system comprising:

a drape;

5 a holding device for attaching said drape in the region of
said main objective;

said holding device including a holding unit defining a
recess for said main objective; and,

said holding unit having a tongue-shaped section for
10 applying a spring force onto said outer peripheral surface of
said main objective when said holding unit is mounted on said
main objective in order to force-tightly hold said holding unit
on said main objective;

said holding unit having a plurality of said tongue-shaped
15 sections; and,

said tongue-shaped sections ~~have~~ having different lengths.

28. (Currently Amended) The drape system of claim 27, wherein said holding unit has an annular section defining an axis and defining an annular recess and said annular recess ~~defining~~ defines an axis; and, said tongue-shaped sections ~~extending~~ extend in an inclined direction to said axis.

29. (Original) The drape system of claim 28, wherein said tongue-shaped sections are directed toward the inner side of said annular section.

30. (Original) The drape system of claim 29, wherein the direction of said tongue-shaped sections to said axis is different.

31. (Withdrawn) The drape system of claim 25, said holding unit including a stop element for impacting against an end face region of said main objective.

32. (Withdrawn) The drape system of claim 25, further comprising a cover element; and, said holding unit including means for holding said cover element.

33. (Withdrawn) The drape system of claim 32, wherein said holding means includes a guide for said cover element.

34. (Withdrawn) The drape system of claim 33, wherein said

holding means includes clamping means.

35. (Withdrawn) The drape system of claim 34, wherein said holding means includes latching means.

36. (Withdrawn) The drape system of claim 35, wherein said guide includes a stop section for said cover element.

37. (Previously Presented) The drape system of claim 25, wherein said holding unit is made of plastic.

38. (Withdrawn) The drape system of claim 32, wherein said cover element is matched to said holding unit so as to permit said cover element to be accommodated in said holding unit in two orientations rotated by 180° to each other.

39. (Currently Amended) A holding device for attaching a drape for a surgical microscope in the region of the main objective thereof, said main objective defining an optical axis and having an outer peripheral surface defining a diameter and said holding device comprising:

a holding unit connected to said drape and having an annular wall defining a recess for said objective;

said recess having a fixed diameter;

said holding unit having a plurality of individual tongue-shaped ~~section~~ sections having respective tips and projecting from said side wall for applying a spring force onto said outer peripheral surface of said main objective when said

holding unit is mounted on said main objective in order to
force-tightly hold said holding unit on said main objective; ~~and,~~
15 said tongue-shaped section being configured to bend
differently depending upon said diameter of said outer peripheral
surface of said main objective ~~thereby force-tightly holding to~~
thereby hold said holding unit on said main objective
independently of said fixed ~~diameter~~ diameter; and,
20 said individual tongue-shaped sections projecting from said
side wall into said recess inclined at an angle with respect to
said optical axis in a direction away from said surgical
microscope so as to permit said tips to contact engage said outer
peripheral surface of said main objective to apply said spring
25 force thereto.

40. (Previously Presented) The holding device of claim 39,
wherein said holding unit has a plurality of said tongue-shaped
sections.

41. (Currently Amended) The holding device of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1,
wherein said tongue-shaped sections have different lengths.

42. (New) The holding device of claim 1, said holding unit
including a stop element for impacting against an end face region
of said main objective.

43. (New) The holding device of claim 1, further comprising a
cover element; and, said holding unit including means for holding
said cover element.

44. (New) The holding device of claim 43, wherein said holding means includes a guide for said cover element.

45. (New) The holding device of claim 44, wherein said holding means includes clamping means.

46. (New) The holding device of claim 45, wherein said holding means includes latching means.

47. (New) The holding device of claim 46, wherein said guide includes a stop section for said cover element.

48. (New) The holding device of claim 43, wherein said cover element is matched to said holding unit so as to permit said cover element to be accommodated in said holding unit in two orientations rotated by 180° to each other.

49. (New) The holding device of claim 1, further comprising:
a cover element having a window section for passing a viewing beam path and/or an illuminating beam path of said surgical microscope;

5 the cover element including:

a holding section for holding said cover element in said holding unit; and,

linear guide means in said holding section for facilitating a lateral introduction of said cover element into said holding unit.

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50. (New) The holding device of claim 49, wherein said holding section includes, at least partially, a thickened edge.

51. (New) The holding device of claim 50, further comprising at least one notch formed in said thickened edge.

52. (New) The holding device of claim 49, further comprising a handle formed on said cover element.

53. (New) The holding device of claim 52, wherein said holding section defines a region lying opposite said handle and said region of said holding section has a boundary edge having a convex contour.

54. (New) The holding device of claim 53, wherein said boundary edge has at least one rounded edge region.

55. (New) The holding device of claim 49, further comprising a window base for carrying said window section.

56. (New) The holding device of claim 55, wherein said window base is configured to have a conical cross section.

57. (New) The holding device of claim 56, wherein said window section is inclined to said holding section.

58. (New) The holding device of claim 49, which cover element is made of PMMA.

59. (New) The drape system of claim 27, said holding unit including a stop element for impacting against an end face region of said main objective.

60. (New) The drape system of claim 27, further comprising a cover element; and, said holding unit including means for holding said cover element.

61. (New) The drape system of claim 60, wherein said holding means includes a guide for said cover element.

62. (New) The drape system of claim 61, wherein said holding means includes clamping means.

63. (New) The drape system of claim 62, wherein said holding means includes latching means.

64. (New) The drape system of claim 63, wherein said guide includes a stop section for said cover element.

65. (New) The drape system of claim 27, wherein said holding unit is made of plastic.